

Rusk, Gromyko Open Talks in N.Y., Make No Progress on Major Issues

by Murray Marder
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NEW YORK, Sept. 25—Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko found the prospects bleak tonight for any new step forward in American-Soviet relations.

A three-hour dinner meeting between senior delegations of American and Soviet diplomats in Rusk's suite at the Waldorf Towers centered on marginal issues between the two nations. This opening round of the scheduled series of Rusk-Gromyko meetings bore out private forecasts that the Soviet Union is in a wholly non-venturesome diplomatic mood because of the forthcoming 50th anniversary celebration of the Russian Revolution and the deadlocked war in Vietnam.

Tonight's meeting was courteous and businesslike, with an evident intent on both sides to avoid recriminations. According to American sources, the subject of Vietnam was not even discussed.

Moreover, an American source said he was unaware that there had been any discussion directly of the long-proposed American-Soviet talks designed to avert an anti-missile race.

Tonight's meeting, however, was the first since the United States last week announced its decision to build a "thin" antimissile network for protection against potential Communist Chinese missiles. That decision to proceed with a limited \$5 billion system, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara emphasized, in no way diminishes American eagerness to reach agreement with the Russians on averting a far costlier U.S.-Soviet anti-missile race. So far, the Soviet Union has balked at setting a date for these talks.

Instead of discussing that subject, Gromyko tonight talked about his call in the U.N. General Assembly last week for "a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons." This is a variation on the oldest Soviet proposal since the beginning of the nuclear weapons age. It is a version of the Soviet proposal of 1945, offered as a counter to the Baruch Plan of the United States for international control of nuclear weaponry, with inspection—which the Soviets spurned.

Gromyko best characterized the tone of tonight's meeting when he told newsmen after-

wards, "It was a mutual clarification of positions."

The United States and the Soviet Union exchanged deadlocked positions here last week over the war in Vietnam. Both nations, in addition, are avoiding any significant new move in the Middle East crisis.

Both sides said the Middle East was discussed tonight, but neither indicated any advance. American sources said Rusk and Gromyko also discussed the proposed new sites for their embassies in Washington and Moscow, as well as the long-delayed plan to institute direct air service between the two nations.

One of the topics that drew considerable attention tonight was the active interest of both nations in a treaty to ban the spread of nuclear nations. The immediate barrier is on the Western side. The United States is grappling behind the scenes with objections from its Western European allies to a proposed Soviet compromise on the missing Article 3 on inspection procedures for the American-Soviet draft of a nuclear nonproliferation treaty put before the Geneva Disarmament Conference on Aug. 24.

The North Atlantic Council, it was learned, will meet again in Paris Tuesday in another attempt to resolve concern among Western Europeans that the Soviet version of international inspection may undermine the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). France, which is not expected to sign the nuclear treaty but is a co-equal member of Euratom, holds potent but uncommitted power in this bargaining process.

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William C. Foster, chief U.S. negotiator at Geneva, participated in tonight's meeting with Gromyko. Others on the U.S. side were United Nations Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, Ambassador to Moscow Llewelyn E. Thompson and Walter J. Stoessel, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs.

Gromyko was assisted by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Soldatov, Ambassador to Washington Anatoly F. Dobrynin, U.N. Ambassador Nikolai Fedorenko and Leonid Zamyatin.

Rusk and Gromyko will meet again Tuesday night at a dinner for Foreign Ministers of the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union, sponsored by U.N. Secretary General U Thant. On Wednesday night, Rusk and Gromyko will have another American-Soviet dinner meeting.